

Coralinho Bay we disturbed two large flocks of Dunlins, among which were some Kentish Plovers; a little later on, three Curlew-Sandpipers and two Black-tailed Godwits.

November 11th, São Nicolau. A Swallow in company with a number of Swifts (*Cypselus unicolor*).

November 20th, Maio. The extensive salt-pans close to the sea were crowded with migrants. Dunlins, Knots, Greenshanks, and Sanderlings observed, while two Avocets kept flying from one pool to another. Over a large stretch of soft mud further inland Kentish Plovers ran to and fro busily feeding, uttering now and again their plaintive, tremulous whistles, which we still heard long after dusk had fallen.

November 22nd. A pair of Wheatears among some ruined huts close to the shore. They were very shy, but we succeeded in obtaining the female (in moult), which proved to be the large northern form of our *Saxicola œnanthe*. Around the same huts we killed a male specimen of *Eurystomus afer*.

On leaving Lisbon on December 20th, the sea, as far as Corunna, presented an extraordinary sight, for over its surface skimmed countless numbers of Gannets (*Sula bassana*), that looked like innumerable moving specks of white in the far distance.

XXV.—*Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

Nos. XLIX.—LI.

No. XLIX. (December 29th, 1897.)

THE forty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 15th of December, 1897. *Chairman*: P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-four Members and four guests were present.

THE HON WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent descriptions of the following species of birds from New Guinea:—

CYCLOPSITACUS MACILWRAITHI, sp. n.

Forehead to middle of crown and line round eyes black,

slightly washed with blue. Rest of head, neck, tail, and upper surface, including upper wing-coverts, dark grass-green. Primaries and outer secondaries black with bright blue outer webs; innermost secondaries green, with the inner webs black, bordered with buff. Sides of head and neck and entire breast buff, strongly washed with yellow. Abdomen, flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts apple-green. Under wing-coverts apple-green, bright blue along the outer edge. Total length 125 mm., wing 86, tail 37, culmen 16, tarsus 10. Iris brown; bill deep brown.

Hab. North coast of British New Guinea (*coll. Anthony*).

Obs. Named in honour of Mr. MacIlwraith, from whom I received the specimen.

PACHYCEPHALA GAMBLEI, sp. n.

♀. Similar to *P. rufinucha*, Scat., but with larger beak, larger even than in the male of that species, and the rufous nuchal patch extending over the head to the centre of the crown. Frontal white feathers with dark centres; olive colour of back slightly darker. Total length about 170 mm., wing 83, tail 67, culmen 21, tarsus 29.

Hab. Mount Cameron, Owen Stanley Range, 5000 feet (*coll. Anthony*).

Obs. Named in honour of Mr. Robert Gamble.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that Dr. A. B. Meyer described a *Pachycephala sharpii* in 1884; therefore Count Salvadori's *P. sharpii*, described from Loria's collection in 1896, must be re-named, and I have much pleasure in calling it *P. salvadorii* (nom. emend.).

EPIMACHUS ASTRAPIOIDES, sp. n.

Head and upper neck brilliant metallic purple. A bare spot behind the eye. Back and rump brownish black, some feathers tipped with metallic greenish blue. Tail black; central tail-feathers one third longer than the second pair, and shining steel-blue glossed with purple. Wings black, outer webs with steel-blue reflections. Chin and throat blackish purple, lower neck metallic coppery red, fading into shining coppery green on the breast. Abdomen green, the

basal half of each feather being black. Flank-feathers long, extending beyond the wings, green fading into a coppery olive-green and mixed with some large scale-like feathers, purple with metallic-blue borders. Side plumes short, metallic purple, tipped with brilliant peacock metallic blue. Total length 830 mm., wing 185, tail 595, tarsus 50.

Hab. Dutch New Guinea.

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited a specimen of the rare *Myzomela lafargei*, Hombr. & Jacq., hitherto only known from the type in the Paris Museum. The specimen was from the Solomon Islands, either from Guadalcanar or Bougainville Island.

Mr. SCLATER exhibited an egg of the "Turco" of the Chilians (*Hylactes megapodius*), belonging to the late Mr. Berkeley James's Collection, and obtained by Mr. A. A. Lane at Hacienda Mansel, as described in 'The Ibis' for 1897 (p. 44). The colour was white, but with an earthy brownish stain, and rather smooth texture, the dimensions 1.35 by 1.05. So far as Mr. Sclater knew, this was the first egg of any species of the family *Pteroptochidæ* yet described.

Dr. BOWDLER SHARPE sent for exhibition some specimens of birds from Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, where they had been collected by Mr. C. W. Andrews. The species exhibited were *Merula erythropleura* (Sharpe), *Zosterops natalis*, Lister, *Collocalia natalis*, Lister, *Carpophaga whartoni*, Sharpe, *Chalcophaps natalis*, Lister, *Astur natalis*, Lister, *Ninox natalis*, Lister, *Tringoides hypoleucus* (L.), *Limnobæus fuscus* (Linn.), *Mesophoyx plumifera* (Gould), *Demiegretta sacra* (Gm.), *Sula sula* (L.), *Phaëthon phænicurus* (L.), *P. flavo-aurantius*, Lawr. The *Limnobæus* and *Mesophoyx* were additions to the list of Christmas Island birds, as published by Mr. J. J. Lister (P. Z. S. 1888, pp. 517-529).

Mr. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT made some remarks on the Tropic-Bird (*Phaëthon flavo-aurantius*, Lawrence) obtained by Mr. C. W. Andrews on the above-mentioned island. This

apricot-coloured form had been figured by Reichenbach [Syst. Av. pl. 30. fig. 852 (1850)] under the name of *P. flavirostris*, Brandt, and was subsequently described by Lawrence [Ann. Lyc. N. York, vii. p. 142 (1862)], from a skin of unknown origin, as a distinct species. In 1887 Mr. J. J. Lister visited Christmas Island and collected there examples of this "fine golden-pink" Boatswain-Bird, which were entered in his list (*l. c.*) under the name of *P. flavirostris*. *P. flavo-aurantius* exactly resembled the latter species in the arrangement of the black markings on the plumage, but differed in having the whole of the light parts of a fine orange-salmon or apricot-colour. This tint did not fade after death, nor did it seem due to extraneous colouring-matter. All the examples of this bird obtained and seen at Christmas Island were similarly coloured, and Mr. Grant considered *P. flavo-aurantius*, Lawr, a well-marked subspecies of *P. flavirostris*, Brandt, with which it had hitherto been regarded as synonymous.

Mr. Grant also pointed out that, after comparing large series of skins of *Phaëthon*, he found that typical examples of *P. flavirostris*, Brandt, from Ascension, Réunion, Seychelles, Pelew Islands, &c., differed constantly from the Yellow-billed Boatswain-Bird met with at Bermuda and the West Indies, and he proposed to distinguish the birds from the latter localities under the name of

PHAËTHON AMERICANUS, sp. n.

Adult male and female. Similar to *P. flavirostris*, Brandt, but differing constantly in the following points:—the black on the outer web of the first primary extending to within half an inch of the extremity, on the second and fourth quills reaching almost to the tip, while the third quill had the outer web entirely black. Bill entirely yellow, except above the nasal opening.

Range. East and south-east coasts of North America, from Bermuda to the West Indies.

No. L. (January 30th, 1898).

THE forty-ninth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 19th of January, 1898. *Chairman*: PHILIP CROWLEY. Twenty Members and three guests were present.

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE exhibited a specimen of *Otus abyssinicus*, Guérin, from Somaliland. This individual was obtained by Mr. J. Benet Stanford, and was of great interest as determining a species which had hitherto been unidentified in England. In 1875, when writing the second volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds,' Dr. Sharpe had been unable to determine the species further than by quoting Heuglin's description of it. The late Mr. Gurney had suggested that *Otus abyssinicus* might be identical with *Bubo nilesi*, Sharpe; but a comparison of the two birds showed that this was not the case, although the former species was really a *Bubo* and not an *Asio*, so that its proper title was *Bubo abyssinicus* (Guérin). The shape of the ear-orifice conclusively proved this to be the case, as was admitted by Mr. Pycraft, who had recently made a special study of the Owls.

DR. BOWDLER SHARPE also exhibited some specimens of *Turdus tristis*, Swains., and *T. leucauchen*, Selater, from the Salvin-Godman Collection. Up to the present day these two species had been united together as the extremes of one variable form, and the late Mr. Seebohm believed that every possible intermediate link existed between them, and that they were found side by side in most parts of Central America. Dr. Sharpe pointed out that the splendid series now in the Salvin-Godman Collection proved that *T. tristis* was perfectly distinct from *T. leucauchen*, and was confined to Mexico. It never had a yellow bill, even in summer, and had the tail olive, like the back. *T. leucauchen*, on the other hand, had a black tail, and in summer had a grey upper surface and an entirely yellow bill. In autumn and winter the bill was blackish and the plumage brown of various tints, but there was no reason to confound it with *T. tristis* at any time of

year. The range of *T. leucauchen* extended from Chiapas to Panamá. This simple explanation of summer and winter plumages had only now become possible from a study of the large series of Central American Thrushes collected in every month of the year, as was now the case with the species in the Salvin-Godman Collection, and it would doubtless give the key to the solution of many other knotty questions in the *Turdidæ*. For instance, the black bill of *Turdus daguæ*, Berlepsch (Orn. MB. v. p. 175), was not a specific character, as the describer imagined, but merely an accompaniment of winter plumage, and Dr. Sharpe believed that the last-named bird would have to be united to *T. leucauchen*. *T. phæopygoides* of Seeböhm was certainly only *T. phæopygus* in non-breeding plumage.

Mr. HOWARD SAUNDERS exhibited an example of the Water-Pipit (*Anthus spipoletta*) which had been procured by Mr. Caton Haigh on the 3rd of December in Carnarvonshire.

Mr. BOYD ALEXANDER showed specimens of some of the new and rare species discovered by him in the Cape Verde Islands, and exhibited the nest and eggs of the Reed-Warbler of the islands (*Calamocichla brevipennis*), found by him on his second expedition to the archipelago.

Mr. TEGETMEIER exhibited the skin of a hybrid Pheasant between *Phasianus reevesi* and *Thaumalea picta*. This interesting specimen is described in 'The Field' for Jan. 22, 1897.

Mr. J. H. GURNEY communicated the following description of a new Goshawk :—

ASTUR BUTLERI, sp. n.

Adult male. Whole of the upper parts bluish grey, lightest on the head; breast pink, finely barred with white, one indistinct bar at the end of the tail. No bars on the primaries, secondaries, or under wing-coverts, which are quite white; in this respect, and in its plain tail, greatly differing from

Astur poliopsis (Hume), which has all the tail-feathers barred except the middle ones. Iris bright orange. Feet yellow. Length 11·7 inches, wing 6·7, tail 5·3, tarsus 1·9.

Immature male. Whole of the upper parts dark chestnut, darker on the nape, each feather having a dark centre. Tail cinnamon-red, with two dark brown bars. Breast and sides reddish brown, blotched with buff. Belly whitish buff, blotched with rufous. Throat buff, with a thin median streak of chestnut. Underside of wing cinnamon. Primaries and secondaries indistinctly barred. Under wing-coverts barred with rufous. Iris greyish white. Feet pale lemon. Bill black, base bluish. Cere pale green. Eyelid greenish (collector's ticket).

Obs. "These Hawks, and two others said to be exactly like them, were shot in September 1897 on the island of Car Nicobar, in the Bay of Bengal, by Mr. A. L. Butler, and are named after Col. E. A. Butler, of Brettenham Park, Bury. Mr. Butler writes that they are 'not uncommon in forest on Car Nicobar, keeping almost exclusively to the tops of high trees; continually utters a shrill little double cry, exactly like *Astur badius*. Young birds are extremely chestnut in colour. The one I send had one or two filaments of nest-down still hanging to it, proving this to be the first plumage acquired. Young birds have a trick of fluttering on a bough like a broken-legged bird. . . . In September I noticed several rufous-crowned young birds probably bred in March or April, and at the same time both adult cocks killed were in a state of breeding.'

"Dr. Sharpe concurs in thinking they are a species distinct from *Astur poliopsis* and *A. badius*. In the whole of the series at the Natural History Museum there was not one at all approaching the bright chestnut Kestrel-like colour of *Astur butleri* when immature."

Mr. ERNST HARTERT exhibited a new Humming-bird, which he described as follows:—

CHALCOSTIGMA PURPUREICAUDA, sp. n.

♂. Above deep green, with a metallic bluish gloss. Tail

rich purple, the two lateral rectrices with narrow buff tips, the central pair metallic greenish blue towards the tip. Below dark green, each feather with a rusty-brown border, broader towards the belly, which is almost entirely rusty brown. Under tail-coverts purplish steel-blue, with broad rusty-buff edges. Chin and throat glittering green in the middle. The irregular shape of the glittering spot on the throat and the rusty edges on the underside are probably signs of immaturity. Wing 71 mm.; lateral rectrices 54, central 40; exposed part of culmen 13.5.

One specimen, evidently a male, found in a Bogotá collection of Humming-birds. The bill is sharply pointed; the mandible is distinctly turned upwards before the tip, reminding one of *Opisthoprora*. The rectrices are very wide, the lateral and central ones fully 12 mm. The purple tail reminds one somewhat of *Zodalia*, which, however, has the tail much longer.

This species has apparently no very close ally.

Mr. E. HARTERT further submitted some other new South-American birds, collected in Ecuador by Mr. Rosenberg. He characterized them as follows:—

CERCOMACRA ROSENBERGI, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Above blackish cinereous; a large concealed dorsal spot of white. Wings and tail greyish black; tail without any white tips. Bend of wing mixed black and white. Wing-coverts with rounded white tips. Wing 63 mm., tail 51, bill 19, tarsus 28.

Cachabi, North Ecuador, 500 feet high. Named in honour of the discoverer.

This species is allied to *C. tyrannina* and *C. approximans*, but differs in having no white on the inner edges of the wing, and in having no large white spot on the bend of the wing. The tips to the wing-coverts are rather rounded, the rectrices having no white tips whatever.

PYRIGLENA BERLEPSCHI, sp. n.

Entirely black, with a large concealed dorsal spot of white.

Inner aspect of wings blackish brown. Wing 44-46 mm., tail 47, bill 20, tarsus 28.

Cachabi, North Ecuador, 500 feet high. Named in honour of Count Berlepsch, the eminent specialist in South-American birds.

This species differs from *P. ater* chiefly in its considerably smaller size, while *P. picea* has, besides a much larger-sized toe, the inner wing-lining whitish.

THAMNOPHILUS CACHABIENSIS, sp. n.

Above black without any gloss, somewhat more slaty on the crown. Most of the wing-coverts with small white tips. Below slaty black; feathers of the chin, throat, breast, and a few along the middle of the abdomen with white tips. Wing from below brownish black. Bill and feet black. Wing 67 mm., tail (rather abraded) about 46, tarsus 26.

Cachabi, North Ecuador, 500 feet.

The two skins before me are both marked "♀," which may possibly be correct, as in *T. punctatus*, the nearest known ally to *T. cachabiensis*, though widely different, the sexes are both black and very much alike.

AUTOMOLUS NIGRICAUDA, sp. n.

♂. Above dark brown, somewhat more rufous brown on the crown of the head. Wings deep brown, inner webs with rufous edges. Behind the eyes a clearly indicated rufous superciliary line. Ear-coverts dark brown. Throat rufous, lighter on the chin. Rest of under surface brown; flanks and under tail-coverts deeper brown. Under wing-coverts dark rufous. Tail from above black, with a slaty tinge, blackish brown below, this latter character distinguishing this species from all its allies, which have a reddish tail. Wing 90 mm., tail 72, bill 24, tarsus 28.

Cachabi, North Ecuador, 500 feet.

POLIOPTILA SCHISTACEIGULA, sp. n.

♂. Above slaty grey; crown of head a little darker. Wings slaty black. Tail black; some of the outer rectrices with narrow white tips, the extent of which cannot be exactly seen, as the tail-feathers are a little abraded. Chin-feathers

white, with slate-coloured bases ; entire throat and fore-neck slate-colour. Under wing-coverts white, slate-colour near the bend ; inner webs of quills with a white margin towards the base. Breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts white. Wing 50 mm., tail 43, tarsus 16, bill 12.

Cachabi, North Ecuador, 500 feet.

Mr. W. P. PYCRAFT exhibited the skulls of the principal forms of the *Steganopodes*, and pointed out the characters by which these birds could be distinguished, not only by a comparison of the skulls, but also of the pelvis, the shoulder-girdle, and other portions of the skeleton. *Phaëthon* appeared to be the least specialized, and was probably the most archaic of the Order.

No. LI. (February 26th, 1898).

THE fiftieth Meeting of the Club was held at the Restaurant Frascati, 32 Oxford Street, on Wednesday, the 16th of February, 1898. *Chairman* : P. L. SCLATER, F.R.S. Twenty-one Members and two guests were present.

THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD sent for exhibition the types of the following three new species :—

PITTA DOHERTYI, sp. n.

♂ *ad.* Top of the head and nape brownish red, darker on the forehead, in the middle of which, at the base of the culmen, are a few pale bluish feathers. Entire throat and a ring round the neck black ; the feathers in the middle of the throat having concealed white bases. A broad band across the lower throat and upper back—interrupted on the sides of the neck—pale blue, followed by a broad black band across the upper breast. Lower breast, entire abdomen, and under tail-coverts red, with white and black bases to the feathers. Back and scapulars olive-green, darker in the middle of the feathers. Least wing-coverts dark olive-green, the remainder pale blue with lighter edges, those near the shoulder with white bases. Rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail pale blue.

Quills black, tips brownish with a bluish wash ; second to fifth primary with a white speculum. Under wing-coverts brown. " Iris deep chestnut-brown ; feet purplish grey ; bill black, gape and tip of culmen dull ochreous." Wing 99 mm., tail 39, bill 20, tarsus 40.

♀. Throat brownish black. Dimensions a little smaller. Iris white !

The entirely black throat and breast-band and the scaly appearance of the upper parts distinguish this bird at a glance from the other species in which the abdomen is red.

Hab. Sula Mangoli ; discovered by Mr. William Doherty, of Cincinnati.

PTILINOPUS MANGOLIENSIS, sp. n.

Belongs to Group A of the arrangement of the genus *Ptilinopus* in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' vol. xxi., and resembles *P. subgularis*, Mey. & Wigglesw., in the absence of the rust-coloured spot on the abdomen ; but it differs from both *P. gularis* and *P. subgularis* in being greenish yellow on the neck and under surface, all the feathers of these parts being light grey with broad greenish-yellow borders. The feathers of the crown have narrow sub-terminal yellowish lines. Wing of the male 165, of the female 156 mm. ; tail of male 136, of female 130 mm.

Hab. Sula Mangoli (*W. Doherty coll.*).

PTILINOPUS EVERETTI, sp. n.

This new species may be described as being between *P. cinctus* and *P. albocinctus*. It differs from *P. cinctus* in having the throat and neck white with fine narrow, wavy, very pale grey cross-lines—instead of white washed with lemon-yellow—and in having a wider and lighter terminal bar across the tail-feathers. *P. albocinctus* has the throat and neck bluish grey, and the abdomen darker, the bar across the tail narrower. *P. lettiensis* differs in having the neck and throat ivory-white, and the end of the tail yellowish white, not pale grey.

P. everetti was found on the island of Alor by Mr. Alfred Everett.

MR. ERNST HARTERT exhibited specimens of three new Pigeons discovered on the Island of Obi Major (or Obi), Moluccas, by Mr. William Doherty. He characterized them as follows:—

CARPOPHAGA OBIENSIS, sp. n.

Of the same pattern of coloration and the same dimensions as *C. basilica*, of the Northern Moluccas, but the entire head, throat, fore-neck, and breast much deeper vinous, with a greyish wash; hind-neck darker grey, separated from the vinous head by a rusty patch. Abdomen and under tail-coverts deep cinnamon, instead of pale cinnamon.

PTILINOPUS GRANULIFRONS, sp. n.

This remarkable new species entirely agrees in the pattern of its coloration with *P. hyogaster* (Temm.) from Halmahera and Batjan, but differs in the following points:—On the forehead, at the base of the bill, is a mass of fleshy knobs, of which there is no sign in *P. hyogaster*. The green of the back, and especially of the breast, is much more yellowish. The grey of the head is lighter and covers also the occiput. The vent and under tail-coverts are of a paler lemon-yellow. The wing is generally a little shorter, measuring 122–132 mm.

REINWARDTÆNAS REINWARDTI OBIENSIS, subsp. n.

Differs from the smaller form of *Reinwardtænās reinwardti*, of the Northern Moluccas, in having the chin and cheeks washed with yellowish buff.

MR. G. E. H. BARRETT-HAMILTON exhibited specimens of ornaments made in Canton—the foundation being of silver, with a minute inlaying of blue feathers from several species of birds; the appearance produced being that of enamel.

MR. E. BIDWELL exhibited a number of photographs of mounted birds in the Hancock Collection at the Newcastle Museum. Some of these birds were among the rarest visitors to Great Britain (*e.g.* the Black Kite and the Red-necked Nightjar), while others (such as the Northern

Falcons, the Great Auk, &c.) were fine examples of the late Mr. Hancock's skill in taxidermy.

MR. W. EAGLE CLARKE called attention to three species of birds hitherto unrecognized in Franz Josef Land. Of these, he exhibited a skin of the Shore-Lark (*Otocorys alpestris*), and also one of Bonaparte's Sandpiper (*Tringa fuscicollis* Vieill.), obtained on June 28th, by Mr. Bruce, of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition. The occurrence of the latter species was remarkable, inasmuch as its Arctic range was only known to extend from Greenland westward to Point Barrow, Alaska. The third unrecorded species was the Purple Sandpiper (*Tringa striata* Linn.), the eggs and downy young of which were obtained.

MR. W. R. OGILVIE GRANT exhibited, on behalf of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe (absent, owing to illness), a few skins from a collection of birds made in Mashoualand by Mr. J. Lawrence Sowerby, late of the B. S. A. Co. Police. Among these were examples of several interesting species, including *Melierax meehowi*, *Monticola angolensis*, &c., and a new Barbet, which Dr. Sharpe proposed to call

STACTOLEMA SOWERBYI, sp. n.

Similis *S. anchietæ*, sed mento albo, gutture et præpectore nigricantibus, gastræi plumis albido apicatis, tibiis albis, distinguenda. Long. tot. 6·6 poll., alæ 3·75.

MR. GRANT also read descriptions of three new species of birds recently obtained by Messrs. C. B. Rickett and J. de La Touche in the Province of Fohkien :—

1. CRYPTOLOPHA SINENSIS Rickett, sp. n.

Like *C. castaneiceps* Hodgs., but the breast and belly are uniform yellow and only the outermost pair of tail-feathers have the inner web white. Wing 1·85–2·0 inches.

2. CETTIA SINENSIS La Touche, sp. n.

Nearest to *C. fortipes*, but the throat, fore-neck, middle of the chest, and breast white; sides, flanks, and vent snuff-

brown; no tinge of fulvous on the middle of the belly. Wing 1·9–2·2, tail 1·7–2·05 inches.

3. *CRYPTOLOPIA INTERMEDIA* La Touche, sp. n.

Near *C. tephrocephala* (Anders.) and *C. affinis* (Hodgs.). Differs from the former in having a much shorter bill, and the secondary coverts distinctly tipped with pale yellow, forming a well-marked bar; from *C. affinis* it differs in having a ring of feathers round the eye, yellow. Wing 2·2–2·3 inches.

Mr. SCLATER called attention to the excellent regulations made by Capt. A. H. Cowie, R.E., M.B.O.U., for the preservation of the wild birds in Wolmer Forest, as Hon. Sec. of the Aldershot Game-Preserving Association. All Hawks, Owls, and other birds were preserved as far as possible, and no guns were allowed to be carried by the gamekeepers. The heronry in Wolmer Forest had increased under Capt. Cowie's influence from one or two nests to nearly 20, and about 50 young birds were reared in 1897.

The announcement of the unexpected death of Mr. DANIEL MEINERTZHAGEN on 13th inst., at the age of 22, was received with regret. He was one of the last-elected Members of the B.O.U., and the latest recruit to the B.O.C.

XXVI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 173.]

27. *Beal on Common American Birds.*

[Some Common Birds in their Relation to Agriculture. By F. E. L. Beal. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmer's Bulletin, No. 54. 1897.]

The author begins with the remark that there seems a tendency to dwell upon the harm birds do to agriculture rather than on the good. He proceeds to make out good cases for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, several of the Woodpeckers, the King-bird, and the Phœbe; while he can plead many